

Title: Need to sanction the projects of Government of West Bengal for protection of Digha sea beach from severe erosion - Laid.

SHRI PRABODH PANDA (MIDNAPORE) : More than 100 kms. long sea beach of Bay of Bengal is under active erosion. That has threatened the survival and livelihood of thousands and thousands of local inhabitants of two districts-Midnapore and South 24 Parganas of West Bengal. Due to erosion at Digha, an attractive tourist centre and sea resort is endangered.

Paddy fields measuring about one-lakh hectares are likely to be damaged by the saline water of the sea. Hundreds of fishponds are also going to be over flowed by saline water.

A centrally sponsored scheme for protection in permanent nature as "Restoration of Digha sea beach' from 3.511 KM. To 3.781 kms. of sea beach has been submitted to C.W.C. Estimated cost of the scheme is 161.08 lakhs, but that has not been sanctioned. Another scheme as "National Coastal Protection Project" comprising two districts South 24 Parganas and Midnapore is for Rs. 25480.00 lakhs. The scheme has been submitted to G.F.C.C. by Irrigation and Waterways Department of West Bengal, but that has also not been sanctioned.

I request the Union Government to provide adequate financial assistance to arrest the erosion and to save the people, at large, of Digha tourist centre as well.

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